

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 L-03

IO-13 CU-02 DHA-02 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /111 W

-----102044 181724Z /46

P R 181603Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9162

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5447

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH

SUBJ: GOG AND STRIKING PROFESSIONALS REACH COMPROMISE;
DOCTORS AND SOME OTHER PROFESSIONALS RETURN TO WORK

REF: ACCRA 5427

1. GHANA RADIO JULY 18 REPORTS THAT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION HAS "INVITED" ITS STRIKING MEMBERS TO RETURN TO WORK AND THAT ATTORNEY-GENERAL KORANTENG-ADDOW AND COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING GARDINER WILL LEAD GOG NEGOTIATIONS WITH ASSOCIATION. LOCAL PRESS SAME DAY SAYS THAT GHANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS DECIDED TO RETURN TO WORK, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DOCTORS, SURVERYORS, ACCOUNTANTS AND SOME PHARMACISTS ARE BACK ON DUTY, ALTHOUGH LAWYERS AND ENGINEERS ARE STILL ON STRIKE.

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2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT STRIKING PROFESSIONALS AND GOG HAVE REACHED A COMPROMISE. DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT WE HAVE SOME UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ACHEAMPONG HAS AGREED TO SHORTEN PROPOSED TWO YEAR TRANSITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE TO ONE YEAR (PARA SEVERN REFTTEL) IN RETURN FOR END OF STRIKE.

SUCH A COMPROMISE WOULD GIVE SOMETHING TO BOTH SIDES, AND END CURRENT IMPASSE. PROFESSIONALS WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GETTING ENTRENCHED MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO STEP DOWN MUCH EARLIER THAN IT HAD INTENDED. HOWEVER, ACHEAMPONG IS STILL IN THE SADDLE AND WILL BE ABLE TO MONITOR AND DIRECT TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE. KORANTENG-ADDOW AND GARDINER ARE THE TWO KEY CIVILIANS IN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE SPOKESMEN FROM BOTH GOG AND PROFESSIONALS' POINT OF VIEW. HOWEVER, THEY WILL DEFINITELY BE UNDER ACHAMPONG'S FIRM CONTROL.

3. STRIKES NOW SEEM TO BE WINDING DOWN AND ACCRA APPEARS TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL. UNLESS APPLE CART IS UNEXPECTEDLY UPSET, AND WE CANNOT YET RULE THAT OUT, WE LOOK FOR A PERIOD OF CALM WHILE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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